



2000

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Recommended Citation

Wallace, Sherry, "**A Gala Event** Chicago Area Sesquicentennial Celebration for Illinois Wesleyan University Set for Sept. 23" (2000). *News and Events*. Paper 971.
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September 11, 2000

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****A Gala Event****
Chicago Area Sesquicentennial Celebration
for Illinois Wesleyan University Set for Sept. 23

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Saturday, Sept. 23, will mark the first regional event celebrating Illinois Wesleyan University's 150 years (1850-2000) of existence. IWU's Chicago region alumni and friends will host the extravaganza, one of a yearlong series of special events.

The sesquicentennial celebration will began at 6:30 p.m. and end at 10:30 p.m. in the Preston Bradley Hall, located in Chicago's historic Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.--the first permanent home of the Chicago Public Library.

Guests will be entertained by the Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Ensemble and treated to an hors d'oeuvre buffet and sweet table. Attendance is by invitation-only.

Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas, class of 1976, directs the volunteer program for the city's Department of Cultural Affairs, and serves on the Illinois Wesleyan Chicago Alumni Executive Board. Wolf-Astrauskas who is co-chair of the IWU Chicago Sesquicentennial Celebration committee, said of the event:

"We're set to celebrate the university and its history on Sept. 23, and the Chicago Cultural Center is the perfect setting for the event. Both the university and the Cultural Center have such rich histories and unusual stories to tell. When better to tell a story than at an event such as this."

The celebration will be held in the Preston Bradley Hall, once the location of the library's circulation desk. "This area used to be the jewel of the library," said Wolf-Astrauskas, "with its beautiful mosaic tile and intricate ceilings. And so, it is in keeping with the stature of the university commemorating its 150th anniversary that alumni and friends of the university come together and celebrate IWU's academic excellence at Chicago's Cultural Center, which is slightly over 100 years old."

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,025 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and \$6 million student center.